

Freedom of Information request 2013-5434

Date received: 18th November

Date of response: 16th December 2013

Information request

1. Please could you provide figures for the number of families with five children or more receiving each type of benefit payment (please see the box below as a guide). These include:

Housing benefit
Out of work benefits
Jobseekers' allowance
Incapacity benefit
Income support
Employment and support allowance
Pension credit

2. Please also state how much is paid out for each category of benefit.

3. Can you also provide figures on the number of families (including number of children) who are on the housing waiting list after requesting a bigger house.

DWP response

In response to your whole query I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

However, available within cost is the number of out-of-work benefit claimant households in Great Britain who also claim child benefit and have 5 or more children by benefit type.

Number of Out of Work Benefit Claimant Households in Great Britain, who also claim Child Benefit and have 5 or more children by Benefit Type: May 2012

	All Out of work Benefits	JSA	IB/SDA	IS	ESA	PC
Five or more children	66,580	13,670	7,900	41,580	9,110	600

Source: DWP WPLS 100% data and HMRC Child Benefit administrative data.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure controls have also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Data represent a snapshot as at 31 May 2012. They are badged as Official Statistics. Background guidance on the use and interpretation of the figures is available at:
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/cb_hholds_guidance.pdf
3. Benefit Type: Data represent the number of children dependent on a parent or guardian who is claiming one or a combination of the following out-of-work benefits: Income Support (IS), Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), and Pension Credit (PC).

There is a considerable overlap in the breakdown by benefit type, as for example, a claimant of Income Support may also be claiming Incapacity Benefit alongside. The All Out of work Benefits column captures children once, irrespective of the combination of benefits being claimed by parents or guardians.

Statistics on the average amount of weekly benefit, by benefit type can be found on the department's Tabulation Tool which allows you to construct your own tables:
<http://tabulation-tool.dwp.gov.uk/100pc/tabtool.html>

For example, to produce a table of the average weekly amount of ESA, by age group and gender, go to the DWP Tabulation Tool website via the link above.

1. In the drop down menu that appears, select **Employment and Support Allowance**, this should now bring up a table with 5 drop down menus.
2. From the first drop down menu, next to **Analysis**, select **Average weekly amount of benefit**.
3. From the second drop down menu, **Row**, select **Age of claimant**.
4. From the third drop down menu, **Column**, select **Gender of claimant**.
5. From the fourth drop down menu, **Subset**, select **NONE**.
6. From the final drop down menu in the **Date** choose the relevant date then click on the **Get Table** button.

Repeat these steps for each benefit you require, just change the benefit in step one.

Guidance on how to use the tabulation tool can be found at:-

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/203439/tab-tool-guidance.pdf

Information on the number of families with five children or more receiving Housing Benefit and the weekly award amount is available on Stat-Xplore via the Department's website: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

IT requirements for using Stat-Xplore

Minimum Browser Requirements	For Stat-Xplore to function correctly, DWP recommends that you:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or later.• Mozilla Firefox 4, 12 or later.• Apple Safari 5 or later.• Google Chrome (stable channel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use only one browser/browser tab at the same time.• Enable JavaScript.• Ensure 'meta refresh' is enabled in Internet Explorer.• Avoid browser add-ons.

To obtain a table of the statistics you require, follow the steps below;

1. Click on the Stat-Xplore for 'HB or NINO Registrations' claimants link.
2. Unless you have already registered you will need to register with the site to enable you to produce the large table you have requested, although smaller tables can be produced without registering. Follow the on screen instructions to register. You will need an email address and must choose a password. The other registration details are optional.
3. You will receive an email to confirm your registration. Follow the instructions in the email and then you will be able to login to Stat-Xplore.
4. In the left hand side window click on the arrow button at the side of the Housing Benefit Databases folder.
5. Then click on the arrow button at the side of the 'Housing Benefit' folder.
6. Then double click on 'Housing Benefit claimants'.
7. Once the table of data appears click on Customise Table on the top left tab under Table View.
8. Click on the arrow button at the side of 'Number of Child-Dependants' folder.
9. Select each box you require, ' 5 or more child dependants' and click on the Add to Row grey button above the selection lists.
10. Select the dates you require by clicking on the arrow button at the side of the 'Month' folder, then select each box you require and selecting the Add to Column button.
11. Click on the arrow button at the side of 'Weekly Award Amount (bands)' folder.
12. Select each box you require and click on the Add to Row button.
13. Then select the format you wish the data to appear in, by clicking in the drop-down menu on the top right of the screen labelled Download Table:
14. Click Go in the top right of the screen. Your table will now be created.

This will give you the requested data for 'Housing Benefit claimants by number of Child-Dependants and Weekly Award Amount (bands) by Month '.

To return to the selections screen click on **Select a database** in the top far right of the screen.

In response to part three of your query, data on housing waiting lists is not held by the Department. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publish this information via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

Information on how to raise a Freedom of Information Request with DCLG can be found towards the bottom of this page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government>